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NEWS RELEASE

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LOCAL FLOOD AGENCY UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES MATUI'S PLAN TO RAISE FOLSOM DAM

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On February 21, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) unanimously approved a resolution that declared the "Folsom Mini-Raise" as the locally recommended flood control plan by a vote of 13-0. Resolution No. 02-010 declares that SAFCA will serve as the local sponsor for the Mini-Raise and the ecosystem restoration projects included in the project. The plan calls for Folsom Dam to be raised by seven feet, allowing for increased storage capacity in the event of extremely large floods that otherwise would overwhelm the city.

"SAFCA has sent a strong signal by approving this measure unanimously," said Matsui. "It is difficult to recall a flood control initiative that has enjoyed such strong and broad local support. That kind of commitment will be critical in the effort to secure this long-sought level of flood protection for Sacramento in the U.S. Congress."

In December of last year, Matsui introduced legislation in the House to authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to raise the height of Folsom Dam. The project will finally bring Sacramento past the 200-year level of flood protection that the community has sought since SAFCA was founded in 1989. Once completed, the Mini-Raise will enable Sacramento to control a flood larger than any flood ever recorded in history.

The resolution adopted by SAFCA states: "With the dam raise project, Sacramento will be protected from the largest flood that can reasonably be estimated for the American River Watershed using available data and current practices for flood frequency analysis – a flood more than 50 percent larger than any ever recorded in the watershed."

Without such a project, \$40 billion of property including the California State Capitol, 160,000 homes, and over 100 schools will remain at an unacceptably high risk of a devastating flood. Matsui intends to add the provision to the 2002 Water Resources Development Act, an omnibus water and flood control bill, which the House is expected to pass this year.

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